

Anasacea

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Anasacea

Thomas P. Rives

admitted March 24. 1819

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To Robert P. Downman M.D

Influenced, Sir, not only by
a consideration of your high medical
qualification, but also affected with
a sense of your politeness towards me,
& the advantage which I derived from
your instructions, the following

Inaugural Dissertation is very
respectfully dedicated to you,

By Your.

Friend & Pupil

The Author.

On the maximum of the graph it
is the maximum of the derivative

and by the rule of derivatives
the derivative has the corresponding
extreme positive value of such a
magnitude which corresponds to the
greatest the derivative has
for a suitable segment
and it corresponds to the
graph is divided into

intervals.

An Inaugural
Dissertation
On Anasarca

It may be defined as follows.
That is, a swelling of the body.

In a healthy state of the body,
there is always a considerable quantity of
body fluid in the cavity of the body,
which is balanced by the absorption
of a large majority of it, during the
course of an ordinary life, from the
body.

At a pathological point of view,

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ON ANASARCA.

Previous to the immediate consideration of the subject which I have selected, I will make a few remarks, on the nature of dropsy generally.

Dropsy may be defined a priornatural collection of a serous or watery fluid, in some part of the body.

In a healthy state of the system, there is always a considerable quantity of fluid thrown into every cavity of the body, which is taken up, by the Lymphatics.

In a large majority of cases, dropsy is the result of an increased exhalation of this fluid.

In a pathological point of view,

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we may distinguish it into Tonie & Stonie.

Perusing the works of European
Writers, we will find, that most of them
consider it as a disease originating in debility.
But that it is also frequently associated with
an excited and febrile state of the System,
is a fact which was first clearly established in }
this Country, by the late distinguished }
Dr. Rush.

Dr. Blackall considers the urine
as a criterion, whereby we may discriminate
between the two species of Dropsey. In the
Tonie, he says, the urine is scanty, high
coloured, deposit, or sediment, and coagulates
by heat and the Nitric Acid. In the
Stonie, it is pale, scanty &c, but does not
coagulate as the former. But I consider
the pulse (the grand Index of the system) a

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Less far superior to any of this description.

Anasarca first discovers itself, by a swelling of the feet and ankles, appearing in the evening, disappearing for a time in the morning; the tumefaction is soft & inselastic, indentations being readily formed by pressure. Gradually the swelling ascends, occupying the abdomen, or extending higher up, so as to constitute an universal Anasarca. There is now difficult & uneasy respiration, the cellular membrane of the lungs, being also affected, the bowels are constipated, the urine scanty, the surface dry, accompanied with more or less febrile action. As the disease advances, there is much torpor & distension, and ultimately the patient sinks, by debility.

The causes of Anasarca are the same as those of dropsy generally, to wit,

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preceding diseases, as the Intermittent Fever, Podagra, Dysentery, Gout, Rheumatism, Phthisis, Exanthematic affections, Scarletina and Prysipelas, Visceral affections. Sometimes dropsy is the consequence of debility, when we may suppose the absorbent apparatus to be deficient in action. Hard drinking is also a frequent cause.

In the cure of Anasarca we form two general indications, 1st To evacuate the water collected & 2nd To prevent a reaccumulation.

I have before remarked, that there were two forms of dropsy, namely the Tonic & Atonic. I shall first treat of the remedies proper for the Tonic form, a that attended with an excited state of the system.—

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Where the means usually resorted to for depleting and reducing the system become necessary.—

Venesection. The pulse being full and active, accompanied also with other marks of a phlogistic diathesis, we cannot hesitate as to the propriety of the remedy. In the use of bloodletting, we must be regulated by the state of the system, and the degree of arterial excitement. In some cases, pretty copious & repeated bleeding is requisite; in other cases only moderate bleedings.

Cathartics. These constitute a very important class of medicines, in the treatment of dryness. They operate by diminishing inflammatory action, & invigorating the powers of absorption. Formerly it was customary to give the most drastic. With

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applied will be washed off in water
and then the Supposititious will be
done, and the Dr. will be applied
more to the breasts. Supposititious
is good against a sore breast, and
will remove the pain with its properties.

also a salve will be made
It is composed of fat, lanolin
and Salve oil, and it is intended
especially to relieve inflammation of the
breast. It is good, and it is composed of
Salve oil and fat, and it is good.

much more benefit, can we resort to the
Saline & Tartarate preparations. The
Sulpho-tartare of Potash & Salap in combination,
are the most important articles of this class.
Their effect are sometimes, exceedingly prompt;
& they have often dispersed dropsical
swellings, without the aid of any other
remedy. —

Diuretics. At the head of this list,
the bromo Tartarate indisputably stands. At
present it meets with the concurrent approbation
of physicians. It was originally introduced
to public notice, by Dr. Home of Edinburgh.
It frequently acts by a combined operation
on the Kidneys, & bowels. When we wish
to augment its diuretic power, we should
give at the same time a considerable
quantity of water. It is now generally admitted,
although hitherto a subject of dispute,

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among physicians, that it is unnecessary to restrain patients in the use of water. The diuretic effect ^{or medicine} are thereby certainly very much increased.

Pilla Martima. This is an invaluable diuretic in every variety of dropsy. It must be recollecteced, however, that it is stimulant in its operation, & hence improper, when the disease is accompanied with febrile action. It is highly improved by a combination with Calomel. With respect to the dose, it should be given so as to excite a moderate degree of nausea.

Particularly adapted to febrile cases is the *Nihas Potasa*. The continued use of this medicine has the effect of impairing the digestive organs; & hence when it has been employed sufficiently long to test its

of the government & the state legislature, given
to the states power over the people in their
domestic capacities, & giving the states
power to regulate their own internal
affairs, so as to be in accordance
with the principles of the federal
government in all their internal affairs.
Now the right of states to regulate their
internal affairs is well known, & it is not
in dispute, that they have such a right, & that
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efficacy, without producing satisfactory results, it should be discontinued. As a substitute, we may use the Spt, Aether, Nitron, which in order to be of any efficacy must be liberally employed, as in the dose of ij, iiij or vij.

Fixed Alkalies — are also recommended as pretty good diuretics; of which the Potash seems preferable.

Some of the Alliaceous are occasionally employed as diuretics.

Opium Petrossinum. This though a domestic remedy, is yet an active diuretic. Every part of the plant possess this property, but the root in decoction is preferable.

Diaphoretics have sometimes, been productive

that you will you will think you will
so considerate as the regulation is made to
be held in the middle of the day and you
would be more willing you would be more
willing to give preference to your wife
and her husband than to any other
husband and wife in the world
and so I hope to make every place
wherever you go to be more
convenient to you.

Permit me to add my hearty
assent to the regulation you have
made. It is a very good
one and I hope you will
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of very beneficial effects. Where these measures have been unavailingly used, they are well worthy of a trial.

MERCURY. In southern climates, dropsy is very frequently associated, with vesicular affections, & in those cases, mercury becomes indispensably necessary. It should be used to the extent of a moderate salivation.

In closing this part of my subject, I might here enumerate, Abstinence, low diet, hard labour, fear, & other causes, evidently of a debilitating nature, which have occasionally done good, in this species, of dropsy. Several such cases, are related by Dr. Rush.

I proceed secondly to consider the other forms, in which American dropsy,

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namely, the Tonics.

The remedies here, should be such stimulant substances as are calculated to excite general vigor, or determine the fluids to the urinary organs.

Tonics. The best tonic medicines are the Peruvian Bark, vegetable Bitters & Chalybeets. The diet should be nutritious & exercise particularly enjoined, proportioned to the strength of the patient. It should be of the active kind, such as moderate walking & riding on horseback.

Diuretics. The first of the stimulant diuretics which I shall name, is the Polygala Sanguinea. Being tonic and actively diuretic, it is well adapted to those cases attended with an enfeebled

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distance, and is, and will
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the landscape. It is very important to
know the exact time of its
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time of its origin, it has been in a state
of subsidence, and has not
been in a state of subsidence, and has not
been in a state of subsidence, and has not

State of the system.—

The Pyrola Urticillata, known also by the name of Pippisipewa, has been lately introduced as a remedy for dropsy, & is represented to have been beneficial. Being analogous to the preceding article, it is well worthy of a farther trial.

The Linetum or Bantharide, is a very active diuretic in those cases, & should be liberally employed, as its irritating effects are thereby prevented.

Eupatorium Perfoliatum.

Being tonic & diaphoretic it appears well adapted to those cases, originating in miasmatic irritation.

Digitalis Purpurea. It would seem

and the people. The country will be
more or less covered with vegetation
of a tropical character and
will be suitable for man and
the higher animals. It will be
well adapted for man to live in
this country, provided that a sufficient
number of trees are cut down
so as to leave enough room
for cultivation to continue the
country over and in future centuries
with a minimum of damage to
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a priori, from the well known operation of digitalis, that it ought to be located with those remedies, for the preceding form of Anarrea, but experience has proven its ineffectuality. It was originally introduced by the celebrated Dr. Withering, with high commendations. Various Divinities have been the report, with regard to its efficacy. Dr. Suriae relates, a great many cases, in which comparative trials were made with the digitalis & the Superbastris Potata, from which it appears that the latter medicine are, very far superior. Nevertheless abundant testimony could be adduced of its power, in almost every species of dropsy; and we may suppose that the diverse accounts have originated from the administration of the medicine, in different states of the system. Dr. Chapman is of opinion

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that it is in atonic cases, that the medicine decidedly displays its best powers. We should be cautious not to proceed too far with the medicine, unless its mode of operation be evident, as it possessess the peculiarity of remaining dormant for some time, & of suddenly developing its full effects.—

I come lastly now to consider the local treatment of Anæstœsia, having detailed the most important general remedies.

When the extremities, are much distended with water, which is accompanied with considerable uneasiness, much relief may be obtained, by evacuating it. This should be effected by making small punctures with a lancet; which should not be too deep, as

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Erysipelas, inflammation & gangrene might otherwise result. These affections sometimes occur in cellular abscess, especially in the extremities.

Others from the extreme distension produced by the effused fluid, or from the topical action of the capillary vessels, the vitality of the integuments, is occasionally so much impaired, as to cause gangrene or mortification -

Under such circumstances, blisters which are so beneficial to arrest the progress of mortification, preceded by inflammations (of which I would believe were introduced by Dr. Physic) are totally inadmissible: indeed they sometimes occasion the very mischief in question.

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Dr. Chapman, is to compress the extremity both above & below, ^{the part affected}, with a flannel roller tightly applied. This operates on a principle easily applicable, namely by imparting tone & warmth to the unfeebled ~~flesh~~, whence it is enabled to resist the further extension of the putrefactive process. This method of treatment, I believe, originated with Dr. Chapman.

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It only remains now, for me to describe the method of fulfilling the second general indication of cure, to wit, to prevent the reaccumulation of water.

When the case, is in some degree local, fictions & the laced shooting are of considerable service, in preventing the reproduction of water.—

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With respect to the general remedies, we should resort to Tonics, the best of which are the Cinchona & Phalacaster.

Should Tonics not prove effectual, but on the contrary should there ^{be} a strong propension to an accumulation of water, we must endeavor to change the state of the system, by introducing Mercury gradually, as an alterative. If the patient should be incapable of bearing the operation of this medicine, the Nitric Acid may be advantageously substituted.

The diet should be nutritious, and exercise particularly enforced. The latter has of itself frequently effected a cure of the dropsy.

Firris.

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along with it much of their own
memories & feelings & leaving the old

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I & family and the next night a
party of soldiers visited us &
spent the evening with us & introduced
a number of sports & exercises that we
had never experienced before & that
at the moment were pleasing
and so I determined would teach
and the next day I introduced the
entire party because it was nice

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and continue as usual with the
old life excepting permitted some
of the sports especially
when it was

morning.